

Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife News

November 19, 2012

Greetings! This newsletter, I would like to highlight a recent Nebraska publication on bats AND wind energy mitigation dollars at work in Nebraska.

[Fringed Myotis \(*Myotis thysanodes pahasapensis*\)](http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/wildlife/programs/legacy/pdfs/Fringed%20Myotis.pdf) is a recent Species Conservation Assessment developed for the **[Nebraska Natural Legacy Project](http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/wildlife/programs/legacy/legacy.asp)** by Melissa J. Panella. The primary goal in development of at-risk species conservation assessments is to compile biological and ecological information that may assist conservation practitioners in making decisions regarding the conservation of species of interest. The Nebraska Natural Legacy Project recognizes the fringed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes pahasapensis*) as a Tier I at-risk species. (<http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/wildlife/programs/legacy/pdfs/Fringed%20Myotis.pdf>).

For more information about the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project, a science-based blueprint for conserving Nebraska's biological diversity using voluntary, non-regulatory opportunities, check out: <http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/wildlife/programs/legacy/legacy.asp> and <http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/windandwildlife.asp#legacy>

[Cultural sites, prairie, woods, and creeks are preserved for learning on the Hosford Farm- Laredo Ridge Wind Project helps to make preservation possible](http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/windenergydevelopment.asp#mitigation) was written by Dave Sands, the Executive Director of the **[Nebraska Land Trust](http://www.nelandtrust.org/)**. This article and a guest column written by Paul Hosford for the Albion News in 2011 highlight mitigation used to offset habitat loss from the Laredo Ridge Wind Project near Petersburg. (<http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/windenergydevelopment.asp#mitigation>).

For more information about the Nebraska Land Trust and conservation easements, visit: <http://www.nelandtrust.org/>

Around the Nation & World...

Wind and Wildlife

[Call for wind turbine rules to protect bats and birds](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-20209896). Scientists at Stirling University are suggesting new national guidelines be drawn up to protect bats and birds from domestic wind turbine developments. (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-20209896>).

[Outdoors: There's a place for birds and wind](http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/sports/outdoors-theres-a-place-for-birds-and-wind/nS8wj/). Like real estate, it seems the key to wind turbines is location, location, location – both for viable winds and for protecting the environment. (<http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/sports/outdoors-theres-a-place-for-birds-and-wind/nS8wj/>).

Wildlife

[Rising Seas Caused by Glacial Melting Linked to Caribbean 'Extinction' of Bats](#). In a new study published in the journal *Ecology and Evolution*, researchers show that rising sea levels produced by deglaciation, or the melting of glaciers, caused the extinction of most bats in the Caribbean Islands,

including the Cuban vampire and Puerto Rican flower bats. (<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/11/121107122455.htm>).

For the complete study, check out the article authored by Liliana M. Dávalos & Amy L. Russell, “Deglaciation explains bat extinction in the Caribbean” published in Ecology and Evolution (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ece3.399/pdf>).

[Bat-tling White-Nose Syndrome with GPS Tracking.](#) The webbed-winged creatures that have long been a mystery to most people are now offering researchers a chance to find out more about them thanks to [GPS tracking technology](#). (<http://www.liveviewgps.com/blog/battling-whitenose-syndrome-gps-tracking/>).

Wind

[Concrete wind towers: a low-tech innovation for a high-tech sector.](#) A wind tower is not the first thing that comes to mind when thinking about technological developments in wind energy, as its impact on system performance is very small. However, wind towers can represent more than 25% of the total WTG (Wind Turbine Generator) cost (Exhibit 2), which makes them a relevant area for cost optimization. (http://thisisxy.com/blog/concrete-wind-towers-a-low-tech-innovation-for-a-high-tech-sector?goback=%2Egde_1903248_member_182964310).

[A&M poll finds support for renewables, but not gasoline taxes.](#) A new poll by Texas A&M University shows that most Americans support developing renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency, even tax cuts for companies that develop renewable energy technologies. (<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2012/11/08/am-poll-finds-support-for-renewables-but-not-gas-taxes/>).

[Survey finds most Americans view global warming, clean energy as priorities.](#) A majority of Americans said the president and Congress should make global warming and developing clean energy a medium or high priority, researchers at Yale University and George Mason University found in a survey released Nov. 13. (<http://www.snl.com/Interactivex/article.aspx?CdId=A-16377804-13351>).

[New ‘super wind turbines’ supply power to more than 10,000 homes.](#) Recently two new RWE/Essent ‘super wind turbines’ in Groningen have started to jointly provide more than 10,000 households with green energy. With a height of 177 metres, they are among the largest wind turbines in the Netherlands. (http://www.essent.eu/content/about_essent/news/archive/new_super_wind_turbines_supply_power_to_more_than_10000_homes.html#.UKI7BLPFTpw.twitter).

Action Items

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have reopened the public comment period for the draft Midwest Wind Energy Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan Within Eight-State Planning Area. To ensure consideration, they request written comments on or before December 3, 2012. (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-10-03/pdf/2012-24401.pdf>).

[BOEM seeks public input for Atlantic wind area assessment.](#) The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is requesting public comment on an environmental assessment (EA) for an area in

federal waters off Massachusetts where commercial wind energy development would take place. (<http://www.rechargenews.com/energy/wind/article326664.ece>).

[BOEM Announces Availability of Environmental Assessment for Wind Energy Area Offshore Massachusetts](#). Comments may be submitted via BOEM's website at: <http://www.boem.gov/About-BOEM/Public-Engagement/Public-Engagement-Opportunities.aspx> (click on the "Open Comment Documents" link) or mailed to: Office of Renewable Energy Programs, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 381 Elden Street, HM 1328, Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817. (<http://www.boem.gov/BOEM-Newsroom/Press-Releases/2012/Press10312012.aspx>).

Upcoming Events

The **[Wind Wildlife Research Meeting](#)** will be held on November 27-30, 2012 in Denver, CO. Topics of interest for the meeting include assessing direct and indirect effects on wildlife and their habitats, evaluating approaches used to avoid and minimize impacts, testing the efficacy of mitigation and conservation measures, and considering the context of wind energy development among other energy choices. (<http://www.nationalwind.org/issues/wildlife/researchmeetingix.aspx>). The **Draft Agenda** is available at:

http://www.nationalwind.org/assets/research_meetings/NWCC_Research_Meeting_Agenda_Draft_09-21-12_.pdf

Around Nebraska...

[Update on wind development in Nebraska](#). Wind energy means so much more to Nebraska than just increasing our energy independence. For much of rural Nebraska, it means more jobs, economic development, landowner and community involvement, and more opportunity to grow our cities and towns. Harnessing this state resource diversifies the state's energy generation portfolio with a renewable and clean source. (http://beatricedailysun.com/news/opinion/editorial/update-on-wind-development-in-nebraska/article_72914fdc-1e8a-5fb3-ae1a-2722609ff770.html?comment_form=true).

[Bats in and Around Structures](#) is a NebGuide authored by Dennis M. Ferraro, *et al*. The NebGuide describes common bats and their habitats in Nebraska. Recommendations for their exclusion and removal from homes and structures is discussed as well as the benefits of bats from everything to backyard gardeners to large-scale agricultural production. (<http://ianrpubs.unl.edu/epublic/live/g1667/build/g1667.pdf>).

Check out the **Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project website** at: <http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/> and **Wind Energy and Wildlife news** at: <http://www.scoop.it/t/wind-energy-and-wildlife>.

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